

**Remarks of
Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission**

**Association of Public Television Stations and
National Cable & Telecommunications Association
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[as prepared for delivery]

Thank you for including me as part of today's announcement. When I heard a deal was reached, it was absolutely thrilling.

I've strongly encouraged this for some time. I know a number of my colleagues on the Commission have, as well, in addition to many leaders in Congress. So it's a special honor to join you in celebrating such an historic achievement, and to thank you for your responsiveness.

I congratulate John Lawson, Robert Sachs, each of their staffs, and those they represent, for what I understand was a tremendous effort to achieve this agreement.

I have always been a big believer in and a supporter of public television. As a television viewer, a parent, and an FCC Commissioner, I, like millions of Americans, understand how public television enriches our lives and our communities. My three-year old certainly thinks Elmo is a model citizen.

Not only does public TV produce in-depth and gripping content today, but it's leading the digital revolution by exploring how to achieve its highest potential. From early on, public TV embraced digital television. Public broadcasters have laid out specific plans to produce compelling new digital content, develop interactive offerings to educate children and adults alike, enhance local civic and public affairs coverage, and expand public safety services. These are just some of the plans public TV has developed or has in store.

Public TV has done an outstanding job detailing its vision for a compelling digital future that will clearly serve the interest of the public. It's easy to see how the diversity and range of their digital content and services will uplift and sustain all Americans, including our nation's children, teachers, seniors, non-English speakers, those with disabilities, and so many other underserved populations.

As we enter this digital era, public TV is truly committed to addressing the educational, civic and diverse needs of local communities across this entire country. That's why I'm so pleased the cable industry stepped forward and recognized the tremendous value of public TV's

digital offerings. By reaching this long-term agreement, millions of Americans will benefit from seeing public TV's enriching digital content on their cable systems nationwide. This is a landmark and forward-thinking deal. It's a win-win-win for the cable industry, for public TV, and for the American viewing public.

This is how Washington should work. It shows that these two groups *can* sit down and work out an arrangement that truly serves the best interests of the American public.

It's also a remarkable tribute to the personal leadership of John Lawson and Robert Sachs, and the many different interests they represent. It's truly leadership at its best here in the nation's capital. Best of all, it's an approach that will endure despite any legal challenges that would confront a governmental effort to achieve the same goals.

After months of hard work, both John and Robert can be proud knowing you did your part to better our society with this truly historic agreement. And Robert, I can't help but mention how much all of us at the FCC will miss you. You are always such a class act. Your industry has certainly been well served by your leadership.